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PAGE 001

NC 5987865

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PP RUEAIB
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
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 PP RUEHC RUEHDD
 DE RUEHLD #7581 3531918
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 P 181918Z DEC 84
 (FM) AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5646
 INFO RUEHDD/NATO COLLECTIVE
 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8738
 ZEN/AMCONSUL BELFAST POUCH
 ZEN/AMCONSUL EDINBURGH POUCH
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L L O N D O N 27581

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: UK, EIND, ELAB, PGDV
 SUBJECT: ENERGY SECRETARY WALKER ON THE MINERS' STRIKE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. A CONFIDENT PETER WALKER BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR AND SENATOR EAGLETON DECEMBER 17 ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MINERS' STRIKE, INCLUDING WALKER'S DECEMBER 14 MEETING WITH TUC REPRESENTATIVES.

3. WALKER SAID HE HAD TOLD THE TUC THAT NOT ONE OF THE SEVEN UNIONS REPRESENTED IN THE ROOM HAD EVER HAD AN OFFER AS GENEROUS AS THE ONE ON THE TABLE FOR THE MINERS, WITH ITS GOOD WAGE DEAL AND PROVISIONS FOR REDUNDANCIES. NO ONE, HE EMPHASIZED, HAD DISAGREED WITH HIM, AND HE EXPECTED THE TUC WOULD CONTINUE ITS HANDS-OFF APPROACH TO THE STRIKE.

4. SCARGILL, WALKER SAID, WAS BEING VERY HEAVILY FINANCED BY THE SOVIETS, RECEIVING TWO MILLION POUNDS TWO WEEKS AGO. HMG KNOWS THE SOVIETS ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF NUM FINANCES, BUT IT IS HARD TO SAY EXACTLY HOW THE CASH IS FUNNELED THROUGH THE VARIOUS SOVIET BANKS AND COMPANIES IN LONDON. SCARGILL'S STRIKERS ARE PAID TEN POUNDS A DAY, AND THE NUM HAS BROKEN ALL TUC GUIDELINES ON PICKETING. VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY MEANS SCARGILL HAS OF KEEPING MEN OFF THE JOB. WITHOUT THAT FEAR, HMG IS SURE THAT MANY MORE MINERS WOULD BE AT WORK.

5. SPECULATION ABOUT COAL BOARD CHAIRMAN MCGREGOR AS AN OBSTACLE TO A SETTLEMENT WAS BESIDE THE POINT, SAID WALKER. MCGREGOR IS AN EASY TARGET -- 72 YEARS OLD, AN AMERICAN, WITH A BACKGROUND IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. BUT THE FACT IS THAT SCARGILL WANTS A CONFLICT. ONE HAD ONLY TO

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CONFIDENTIAL

84 5987865

SCP

PAGE 002
TOR: 181930Z DEC 84

NC 5987865

READ HIS MANY PRONOUNCEMENTS OVER THE YEARS.
SCARGILL BELIEVES THAT THE WORKING CLASS CAN NEVER
OBTAIN ITS RIGHT TO RULE THROUGH DEMOCRATIC ACTION
BUT ONLY BY USING ITS INDUSTRIAL MIGHT THROUGH
CONFLICT.

6. THE KEY FACT FOR THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE TUC
IS NOT SUPPORTING THE STRIKE. OTHER UNIONS -- THE
ELECTRICIANS, THE TRANSPORT WORKERS -- COULD ALL
HAVE JOINED IN BUT HAVE NOT, WALKER SAID,
BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED THE
MINERS A SUPER DEAL. THE RESULT IS THAT COAL IS
MOVING AT RECORD LEVELS, WITH MORE STOCKS IN
POWER STATIONS NOW THAN IN AUGUST, WHILE,
ACROSS THE PICKET LINES, THE RETURN TO WORK
CONTINUES -- FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED LAST WEEK ALONE.

7. COMMENT: THE FACT OF SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR THE NUM IS WELL KNOWN, BUT THE MAGNITUDE
CITED BY WALKER IS STRIKING.
PRICE
END OF MESSAGE

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